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ANNUAL REPORT

TO THE

BEDLINGTONSHIRE URBAN

DISTRICT COUNCIL

FOR THE YEAR 1954

BY THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR



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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1954

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I beg to present to you the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health concerning the health and sanitary conditions of the Urban District for 1954.

The Registrar General's estimated mid-year home population was 29,150—an increase of 310 over that of 1953.

The Crude Death Rate was 10.8 per 1,000 estimated population.

The Crude Birth Rate was 17.9 per 1,000 estimated population which was a fall of 0.6 from 1953.

There were 14 infant deaths and of these 9 died within the first month. The infant mortality rate was 26.7 per 1,000 live births. These figures are the lowest ever recorded in Bedlingtonshire and they are indices of the improved social conditions existing in the district at the present time. It is to be hoped that this excellent figure will be at least maintained, if not improved upon.

There were 381 notifications of infectious disease. Measles proved to be commonest but the disease was mild and not wide spread. There were only 38 cases of Whooping Cough notified during the year. There was one case of Anterior Poliomyelitis. There were no cases of Diphtheria during the year—the fourth in succession.

I have reported on atmospheric pollution and colliery spoilbanks. The latter continues to be a constant source of annoyance to the population. I have also drawn attention to the necessity of dealing with the hutted camps at Hartford as expeditiously as possible.

I wish to thank the Chairman and members of the Health Committee for their co-operation during the year and also the co-operation received from other Council departments. The Health Department staff have again worked as a team and I would like to record my appreciation to them.

I am, Your obedient Servant,

A. DONALDSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

Medical Officer of Health	-	Alexander Donaldson, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Chief Sanitary Inspector	- - - -	
and		R. W. Cowans, M.S.I.A.
Meat and Food Inspector	- - - -	
Sanitary Inspector (Additional)	- - . -	O. B. Dodds, Cert. S.I.B. (resigned 8/1/55)
Health Department Clerk	- - - - - - -	J. H. Hostler
Health Department Typist	- - - - - - -	Miss Patricia Hall (commenced 4/1/55)
Offices	- - - - - - -	Front Street, Bedlington
Telephone No.	- - - - - - -	Bedlington 2121
Health Department Typist	- - - - - - -	Miss U. Brown (resigned 16/12/54)

STATISTICS AND CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in acres	... ..	9,025
Registrar General's Estimate of the Resident Population		
Mid 1954	... ..	29,150
Rateable Value	... ..	£117,429
Penny Rate Produces	... ..	£485
Number of Inhabited Houses	... ..	9,310

VITAL STATISTICS

Births

Live Births

				Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	264	248	512
Illegitimate	...	...	...	3	9	12
Totals	...	...	...	267	257	524

Still Births

				Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	10	7	17
Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	—	—
Totals	...	...	...	10	7	17

Comparability Factors. Births 0.97. Deaths 1.17.

Uncorrected Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population	...	17.9
Standardised Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population	...	17.3
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births	...	31.4
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population	...	0.58

Deaths

Male	Female	Total
182	135	317

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population	...	10.8
Standardised Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population	...	12.6

Deaths over 65 years of age

				Male	Female	Total
1954	...	...	...	113	89	202
1953	...	...	...	108	81	189
1952	...	...	...	77	80	157
1951	...	...	...	124	100	224
1950	...	...	...	108	105	213

Deaths from Puerperal Causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar General's short list).

NIL.

INFANT MORTALITY

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	8	5	13
Illegitimate	—	1	1
Totals	8	6	14

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age

All infants per 1,000 live births	26.7
Legitimate infants per 1,000 live legitimate births ...	25.3
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 live illegitimate births ...	83.3

COMPARISON OF VITAL STATISTICS (1954) WITH THOSE OF 1953

	1954	1953
Population	29,150	28,840
Live Birth	Totals: 524	536
Still Births	Totals: 17	7
Uncorrected Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population	17.9	18.5
Standardised Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population	17.3	19.2
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population	0.58	0.24
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 live and still births	32.4	12.8
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population	10.8	10.7
Standardised Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population	12.6	12.19
Deaths over 65 years of age	202	189
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 live births	26.7	37.3
Number of infant deaths under 1 year of age	14	20
Neo natal mortality rate (infants under 4 weeks) per 1,000 births	19.0	20.52
Tuberculosis Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population	0.22	0.17
Pulmonary Tuberculosis case rate per 1,000 estimated population	5.6	5.4

INFANTILE MORTALITY, 1954

The deaths of infants under one year numbered 14 and of these 9 died within one month.

The Infantile mortality rate was 26.7 per 1,000 live births and the neonatal mortality 19 per 1,000 live births.

11 deaths occurred at home and 3 in hospital.

	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years	4	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
No. of Deaths of Infants under 1 year	26	31	21	17	20	29	20	21	20	14
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	54.05	58.2	34.09	33.46	38.82	58.8	35.5	38.25	37.31	26.7

No.	Age	Sex	Place of Death	Cause of Death	Preventable or not	Remarks
1.	4 months	M	Hospital	Congenital Heart Disease ...	Not	
2.	2 months	F	Hospital	Enterocolitis	Yes	
3.	10 months	M	Hospital	Meningococcal Meningitis ...	Not	
4.	2 weeks	M	Hospital	Congenital Heart Disease ...	Not	
5.	1 month	M	Hospital	Toxaemia	Not	
6.	3 days	M	Hospital	Cerebral Birth Trauma ...	Not	
7.	30 mins.	M	Hospital	Hydrops Foetalis	Not	
8.	5 days	M	Hospital	Cerebral Haemorrhage ...	Not	
9.	4 hours	F	Hospital	Prematurity	Not	
10.	2 hours	F	Hospital	Prematurity	Not	
11.	1 day	M	Hospital	Cerebral Haemorrhage ...	Not	
12.	1 month	F	Home	Asphyxia	Yes	
13.	2 weeks	F	Home	Prematurity	Not	
14.	3 weeks	F	Home	Broncho Pneumonia ..	Yes	

INFANT MORTALITY

Cause of Death					Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1-3 months	4-6 months	7-9 months	10-12 months	Total under 1 year
Congenital Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	2
Entero colitis	...	...	...	...	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Meningococcal Meningitis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Toxaemia	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Cerebral Birth Trauma	...	...	...	...	3	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	3
Hydrops foetalis	...	...	...	...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Prematurity	...	...	...	...	2	—	1	—	3	—	—	—	—	3
Asphyxia	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Broncho Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Totals					7	—	3	—	10	2	1	—	1	14

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1954

Code No.	International Classification	M.	F.	Total
002	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	3	3	6
057	Meningococcal Septicaemia	1	—	1
143	Malignant Neoplasm of Floor of Mouth	1	—	1
144	Malignant Neoplasm of Cheek	1	—	1
148	Malignant Neoplasm of Pharynx	1	—	1
150	Malignant Neoplasm of Oesophagus	—	1	1
151	Malignant Neoplasm of Stomach	9	8	17
153	Malignant Neoplasm of Large Intestine	4	3	7
154	Malignant Neoplasm of Rectum	4	3	7
155	Malignant Neoplasm of Gall Bladder	—	2	2
157	Malignant Neoplasm of Pancreas	1	—	1
162	Malignant Neoplasm of Bronchus or Lungs	6	—	6
170	Malignant Neoplasm of Breast	—	4	4
171	Malignant Neoplasm of Cervix Uteri	—	1	1
175	Malignant Neoplasm of Ovary	—	1	1
177	Malignant Neoplasm of Prostate or Urethra	2	—	2
181	Malignant Neoplasm of Bladder	—	1	1
193	Malignant Neoplasm of Brain	—	1	1
196	Malignant Neoplasm of Sacrum (Sarcoma)	1	—	1
201	Hodgkin's Disease	—	2	2
203	Multiple Myelomata	1	—	1
223	Benign Neoplasm of Brain	—	1	1
290	Pernicious Anaemia	1	—	1
290.2	Hyperchromic Anaemia	—	1	1
330	Subarachnoid Haemorrhage	1	—	1
331	Cerebral Haemorrhage	20	22	42
332	Cerebral Thrombosis	11	6	17
350	Paralysis Agitans	—	1	1
401	Rheumatic Pericarditis	1	—	1
410	Mitral Disease	1	1	2
420	Arteriosclerosis	—	1	1
420.1	Coronary Thrombosis	29	18	47
421	Mitral Incompetence	1	—	1
421.1	Aortic Incompetence	1	—	1
422	Myocardial Degeneration	20	13	33
422.1	Myocardial Degeneration with Arteriosclerosis	1	—	1
422.2	Myocardial Degeneration with Senility	15	10	25

433.1	Auricular Fibrillation	1	1	2
434.1	Congestive Heart Failure	6	6	12
434.2	Left Ventricular Failure	2	—	2
440	Hypertensive Heart Failure	1	—	1
465	Pulmonary Embolism	2	2	4
490	Lobar Pneumonia	1	1	2
491	Broncho Pneumonia	2	2	4
500	Acute Bronchitis	1	—	1
502	Chronic Bronchitis	1	1	2
521	Lung Abscess	1	—	1
522	Pulmonary Congestion	1	2	3
570.5	Intestinal Adhesions with Obstruction	1	—	1
571	Entero-colitis	—	1	1
581	Cirrhosis of Liver	1	—	1
592	Chronic Nephritis	1	2	3
600	Pyelo Nephritis	—	1	1
754	Congenital Heart Disease	2	—	2
760	Intracranial Birth Injury	1	—	1
760.5	Intracranial Birth Injury with Prematurity	2	—	2
763	Pneumonia of Newborn... ..	—	1	1
770	Hydrops Foetalis	1	—	1
770.1	Kernicterus	—	1	1
773	Toxaemia (Liver Failure)	1	—	1
776	Prematurity	—	3	3
780.2	Convulsions	1	—	1
794	Senility	3	2	5
E812	Motor Accident to Pedestrian	3	2	5
E900	Fall on Stairs	1	1	2
E903	Fall on Ground Level	1	—	1
E910	Fall-in of Earth	3	—	3
E974	Suicide by Hanging	—	1	1
N821	Fracture of Femur	1	—	1
N933	Foreign Body in Larynx	1	—	1
N990	Drowning	1	—	1
N991	Suffocation	—	1	1
N992	Electrocution	1	—	1

Totals ... 182 135 317

CANCER MORTALITY, 1954

Males											
Age Groups											TOTAL
	0-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65+		
Floor of Mouth	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	
Cheek	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	
Pharynx	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	
Stomach	—	—	2	1	1	1	4	9	
Large Intestine	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	4	
Rectum	—	—	1	—	—	1	2	4	
Pancreas	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	
Bronchus or Lung	—	—	1	—	1	3	—	6	
Prostate	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	
Sacrum (Sarcoma)	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	
Multiple Myelomata	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	
Totals	...	—	—	4	1	2	3	6	15	31	

				Females									
				Age Groups									
				0-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65+	TOTAL
Oesophagus	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Stomach	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	5	8
Large Intestine	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	3
Rectum	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	3
Gall Bladder	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Breast	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	1	4
Cervix Uteri	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Ovary	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Bladder	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Brain	...	...	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Totals				...	1	—	—	—	4	4	4	12	25

CANCER MORTALITY, MALE AND FEMALE SINCE 1935

		1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Male	...	12	17	16	17	18	12	12	12	16	24	19	25	21	22	23	26	34	36	35	31
Female	...	12	11	31	14	16	14	22	17	24	26	17	20	21	19	21	20	18	15	24	25
Total	...	24	28	47	31	34	26	34	29	40	50	36	45	42	41	44	46	52	41	59	56

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Measles

There were 250 cases notified during 1954. There were no deaths.

Whooping Cough

There were 38 cases notified during 1954. The disease was relatively mild and there were no deaths.

Scarlet Fever

There were 19 cases notified during the year. The lowest number since 1947. No deaths occurred.

Dysentery

Six cases of Sonne Dysentery were notified. It was extremely fortunate that the disease did not become epidemic as it is most infectious. Infection is spread from the bowel to the mouth via the hands. Scrupulous cleanliness especially after using the toilet can do much to prevent its spread. No deaths occurred.

Acute Poliomyelitis

One case occurred in a baby. The paralysis was not severe. It was not possible to establish how the infection was incurred in spite of exhaustive inquiries.

Meningococcal Infection

There were three cases notified in 1954 and one death occurred from Meningococcal Septicaemia.

Diphtheria

No cases notified for the fourth successive year.

**TABLE SHOWING ANALYSIS OF NOTIFIED CASES OF INFECTIOUS
DISEASES UNDER AGE GROUPS, 1954**

			Under 1 year	1 year	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years	6-10 years	11-15 years	16-20	21-35	36-45	46-65	Over 65	TOTAL
Measles	...	...	9	31	25	29	38	56	61	1	—	—	—	—	—	250
Whooping Cough	...	...	5	2	8	7	6	5	4	—	—	1	—	—	—	38
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	—	—	—	2	—	1	1	2	8	9	5	2	—	30
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	—	—	—	—	2	1	1	—	2	3	2	—	—	11
Scarlet Fever	...	...	—	1	2	3	2	6	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	19
Dysentery	...	...	—	—	1	—	—	—	4	—	—	1	—	—	—	6
Meningococcal Infection	...	...	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Typhoid Fever	...	...	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	2
Acute Encephalitis	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	2
Pneumonia	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	5	4	2	2	16
Totals	...	...	17	37	36	41	48	70	80	3	11	20	12	4	2	381

Diphtheria notifications and deaths in Bedlingtonshire during the 10 year period 1945-1954:—

Year	...	...	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Cases	...	...	64	55	19	5	2	1	—	—	—	—
Deaths	...	...	7	1*	3*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

*Unprotected.

Measles, Whooping Cough and Scarlet Fever Notifications, 1945-1954:—

Years	...	...	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Measles	...	...	293	194	124	245	228	540	156	406	165	250
Whooping Cough	...	...	30	45	36	186	12	133	79	15	215	38
Scarlet Fever	...	...	21	7	10	60	31	54	83	84	40	19

TUBERCULOSIS, 1954

Age	New Cases								Deaths			
	Resp.				Non-Resp.				Resp.		Non-Resp.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0- 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1- 5	1	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-15	1	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
15-25	4	8	1	2	1	—	—	—	—
25-35	3	2	1	1	—	1	—	—	—
35-45	3	2	—	2	1	2	—	—	—
45-55	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55-65	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Over 65	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Totals ...				13	17	5	6	3	3	—	—	—
				30		11		6		—		

There were 41 notifications of tuberculosis (30 pulmonary and 11 non pulmonary) during 1954. This is one less than 1953. There were six deaths.

The tuberculosis register showed the following distribution of cases at the end of 1954:—

Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Total Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary
Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
89	76	165	26	32	58	
						223

Deaths and notifications, pulmonary and non pulmonary tuberculosis for Bedlingtonshire 1945-1954.

Notifications

Year	...	...	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Pulmonary Cases	...		22	18	16	19	18	27	32	24	29	30
Non-Pulmonary Cases			14	2	8	10	7	11	7	7	13	11

Deaths

Pulmonary Cases	...	11	11	10	4	13	5	5	7	5	6
Non-Pulmonary Cases		2	1	2	2	2	—	1	—	—	—

AGED PERSONS

This is a problem in Bedlingtonshire which is common to many, if not every local authority at the present time. There are many retired persons, single or married who require no assistance of any kind. They are fit and well and can manage to live a full life on their own or helped by relatives.

There are others, who, because of infirmity and often because relatives fail in their responsibilities, require help to run their homes. The Home Help Service deals most adequately with this group. In this way, they can remain at home and can continue an independent life for many years. The amount of assistance given varies with the capabilities of the old people and in the case of progressing disability, the amount of help is increased.

There comes a time, however, when the Home Help Service can no longer provide the care or undertake the responsibility of looking after aged and infirm persons. When the stage is reached where memory lapses, and when there is a danger of the person injuring himself or herself by falling, and where the latter is increased by fire danger, either to the patient or neighbours, further steps must be taken to protect the individual from himself.

Institutional care becomes imperative. In some cases the patient agrees to this step, but often there is complete opposition to the move on the grounds that their roots are in their own home and the tearing away of these roots makes a final break in the home link. Every sympathy is due to such an attitude but the responsibility of the authorities concerned is too great to allow this state to continue. It is impossible at the present time and with the services in existence to provide help at night and until measures are permitted to provide such services the only answer is admission to an institution. It is well to remember that the institutions provided now, differ very greatly from the work-house of 20 to 30 years ago. The welfare homes are real homes, providing every comfort in the way of good food, first class accommodation and modern amenities. Sitting rooms are warm and comfortable; entertainment is provided for by radio and television; gardens allow the inmates to enjoy relaxation and exercise according to their physical powers and those who are able to travel can visit their relations. Bedlington is especially fortunate in having such a home within reasonable distance. Few patients desire to leave the Thomas Taylor Homes when they have had time to settle down. One feature is the consideration that is given to grouping the right people with each other. Changes are constantly being made to find the right niche for each patient.

In spite of this there is still a lack of accommodation and especially accommodation for the patient requiring a halfway house, somewhere between the home for the able aged who can in large measure look themselves and the hospital patients. In old age there is a transition period which must be bridged and while this is possible for institutional patients it is difficult to find such a solution for someone at home.

A patient who has been confined to bed can often improve out of all recognition. Proper food and nursing and a comfortable type of home allow the authorities to find what is likely to happen to such patients. This type of home, can, in many cases provide temporary accommodation for persons who are bedfast or who have gone down hill through lack of proper nourishment. A stay of two or three months in a halfway house might be the means of allowing a patient to return home for a further period.

It is hoped that the government will realise the need for accommodation of this kind and will take steps to authorize its provision.

It would appear most economical to place the halfway house beside present part III accommodation if there is building space, so that full use of existing staff, etc., could be utilised.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION AND SMOKE ABATEMENT

In a district where the main occupation is mining and where the miner receives a fairly large allocation of coal it is difficult to introduce sweeping changes in fuel consumption to cut down the production of house smoke. This fact is emphasised when it is remembered that a large proportion of the mining population is still housed in "miners' rows" and where the kitchen fire is seldom allowed to go out. These houses are old fashioned and are heated in the main by large open fires which burn very large quantities of soft coal.

The houses are of a standard which does not warrant the expenditure of installing modern slow burning fires and in fact it is doubtful if the miners would welcome such a change.

The new houses being erected have modern fireplaces which have controlled flues eliminating to a great degree the production of excessive smoke. It must be remembered however that more than half of the smoke in the shire is domestic and not industrial. There should be considerable improvement in this respect as new houses are built and the old one demolished.

Bedlingtonshire is fortunate in that it has large tracts of open fields and smoke produced by its mining villages has an opportunity to disseminate fairly rapidly.

COLLIERY SPOILBANKS

This is a vexed question. No one will deny that from the aesthetic point of view alone the presence of huge pit heaps is unsightly and depressing. It would be bad enough if these heaps were sterile and inactive but when they are burning as well, the situation becomes intolerable to the unfortunate inhabitants who have to endure the resultant smoke and fumes.

The adjacent householders are not the only ones affected as the fumes are carried long distances causing a nuisance to large numbers of the population.

These spoilbanks contain material which, at some time or other, combusts spontaneously. Once the heap has been fired it is extremely difficult if not impossible to extinguish the burning mass.

The spraying of water has little effect as it appears only to damp out the surface flames and in fact causes combustion to continue throughout the spoilbank. If more care was given to the tipping of the soil and to limiting the height of the bank much could be done by way of bulldozing and spraying to effectively maintain the heap under control.

As long as the financial aspect of waste disposal remains the main factor, spoilbanks will continue to rise in the mining areas to the detriment of the scenery of the countryside and to the health of the community. The fumes emitted from burning spoilbanks contain very high percentages of sulphur-dioxide which is a poisonous gas. The pollution of the atmosphere with this poison must have extremely adverse effects on persons suffering from lung complaints. The aged persons of the community many of whom suffer from asthma, chronic bronchitis, etc., must certainly be adversely affected by the sulphur content of the atmosphere and in many cases the starting of a fatal pneumonia might well be traced to "smog" produced in this way.

The prohibition of spoilbanks can only be dealt with as a national problem. It is too big for any one local authority. This however should not prevent each district causing as much agitation and protest as possible and every effort to prevent the ill effects of spoilbanks should be taken.

HOUSING

Although a considerable proportion of the population from the huttet camp at Hartford has been re-housed and the vacated houses demolished it is a great pity that the whole project could not have been completed within the five years suggested initially by the Ministry of Health. The remaining families are living in property which is very greatly sub-standard. The Bedlingtonshire Housing Committee have done all they could reasonably be expected to do and short of receiving a special allocation of houses for this particular purpose, the re-housing of the families concerned could not have been dealt with more expeditiously.

In the main, housing progress is steady and plans are in preparation for dealing with the large number of sub-standard properties in the shire. This depends on the rate of building during the next five years. The council already allocate three houses in five for condemned property which is a very high proportion.

WATER SUPPLY

There is still only one house, namely the Grove Villa, which does not receive a mains supply of water from the Tynemouth Water Undertaking. The supply is adequate and of good quality.

At the end of the year samples which proved unsatisfactory were taken from Hartford Camp, a disused Army camp now being used as dwellings. The source of contamination was found to be a large storage tank to which pigeons had gained access.

During the period of heavy rainfall unsatisfactory samples were taken for the first time from Grove Villa. As a precautionary measure all water was boiled and further samples were satisfactory.

The number of houses using a standpipe in the back street or private yard has been further reduced to 572. Almost all these houses come within the category of sub-standard houses and are quickly being dealt with under the slum clearance programme. 380 are the property of the National Coal Board.

Owing to inclement weather there was a fall in the attendance at the Humford Mill Open Air Swimming Baths but nevertheless admissions still reached the figure of 15,376 not including season ticket holders. A new chlorinating plant has now been installed and the water is sampled regularly for bacteriological examination.

WATER SAMPLES TAKEN

	Bac. Coli per 100 ml.
38 Samples from Humford Mill Swimming Baths	Nil
1 Sample from Humford Mill Swimming Baths	8
1 Sample from Humford Mill Swimming Baths	25
2 Samples from Humford Mill Swimming Baths	5
1 Sample from Spring at Grove Villa, Bedlington	35
2 Samples from Spring at Grove Villa, Bedlington	180+
1 Sample from Spring at Grove Villa, Bedlington	90
1 Sample from Spring at Grove Villa, Bedlington	11
1 Sample from Spring at Grove Villa, Bedlington	25
3 Samples from Spring at Grove Villa, Bedlington	Nil
9 Samples from mains supply at Hartford Camp	Nil
3 Samples from mains supply at Hartford Camp	1
1 Sample from mains supply at Hartford Camp	3
1 Sample from mains supply at Hartford Camp	5
1 Sample from mains supply at Hartford Camp	8
3 Samples from mains supply at Hartford Camp	180+
1 Sample from mains supply at Hartford Camp	160
1 Sample from mains supply at Hartford Camp	50
1 Sample from mains supply at Hartford Camp	90
1 Sample from mains supply at Hartford Camp	90
3 Samples from the water tower at Hartford Camp	Nil
1 Sample from the water tower at Hartford Camp	180+
2 Samples from mains supply permanent houses	Nil
3 Samples from standpipes permanent houses	Nil
1 Sample from standpipe permanent house	1
2 Samples from mains supply Pit Head Baths	Nil

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The first part of the Main Sewer Reconstruction Scheme for the whole district has now been completed. This is a 9" main commencing at South Parade, Guide Post and increasing to a 21" main at Stakeford, a distance of over 2,000 yards. This sewer temporarily drains into the existing sewer which discharges into the river at Stakeford bridge and will eventually flow to the sea outfall at Cambois.

DISINFESTATION

All sewers of the district have been given two treatments during the year by the Council's Rodent Operator with good results. Regular attention has also been given to refuse tips, and all surface infestations including houses, gardens, canteens, food premises, etc., have received treatment as and when required.

Action has been taken in 12 cases for bed bugs, 7 at Council houses and 5 at private houses, using Gammexane smoke generators and liquid insecticide.

CLEARANCE AREAS AND INDIVIDUAL UNFIT HOUSES ACTION TAKEN UNDER THE HOUSING & PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

Clearance Areas

Dwelling Houses demolished ... Nil

Houses not in Clearance Areas

Demolition and Closing Orders Housing Act, 1936

(a) Houses demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 11:—

1-6, Renwick's Yard	...	...	6
9-14, Cragg's Buildings	...	...	6
83-122, North Row	...	...	39
8-13, Middle Row, Stakeford	...	...	6
13, 15, 39, 41, Glebe Row	...	...	4
18, School Row	...	...	1
Sun Inn Yard	...	...	6
3-8, Richardson's Buildings	...	...	6
Taylor's Buildings, Red Row	...	...	16
Kidd's Yard, Bedlington	...	...	6
9, 10, Baptist Yard	...	...	2
Ivy Cottage, Bedlington Station	...	...	1
Willow Bridge Cottage	...	...	1

100

(b) Houses closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by the owners under Section 11 and still in force	Nil
(c) Parts of buildings closed (Section 12)	
11½, Rosella Place	1
1, 5 & 10, Bridge End	3
9, Vulcan Place	1
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, Fail's Yard	5
20½, Front Street East	1
1, 2, 3, Forrester's Buildings	3
27½, Glebe Row	1
1, Colville's Yard, Vulcan Place	1
	<hr/> 16

Housing Act, 1949

Closing Orders substituted for Demolition Orders ...	Nil
--	-----

Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953

Closing Orders made under Section 10 (1)	—
---	---

Reconditioning and Repair of Houses

Informal Action

Number of unfit or defective houses rendered fit as a result of informal action by the Local Authority under Public Health or Housing Acts	43
---	----

Action under Statutory Powers

Public Health Acts

Number of houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—

(a) by owners	2
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	—

Housing Act, 1936

Number of Houses made fit after service of formal notices (Sections 9, 10, 11, 16).

(a) by owners—11, Vulcan Place	1
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	—

NEW HOUSES COMPLETED DURING THE YEAR

	With State Assistance	Unaided	Total
(a) By Local Authority	182	—	182
(b) By any other Housing Authority	—	—	—
(c) By private persons	—	11	11

CLOSING AND DEMOLITION OF HOUSES

Formal Action

1.	Number of houses demolished during 1954 as a result of Clearance Schemes or other formal action	100
	(Number of houses included in above which were from pre-war confirmed Clearance Areas)	Nil
2.	Number of houses closed but not demolished as a result of formal action	16

Informal Action

1.	Number of houses permanently discontinued as dwellings as a result of informal action and not included in above	17
	Trojan Street	1
	L.N.E.R. Huts	5
	Hartford Huts	11

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS: HOUSING ACT, 1949

	Number of separate houses
(a) Applications submitted to Local Authority during year ...	26
(b) Applications rejected by Local Authority	5
(c) Applications forwarded to Ministry	—
(d) Applications rejected by Ministry	—
(e) Applications approved	21
(f) Total number of applications approved in the area since inception of scheme	42

SUB-STANDARD HOUSES

Since the last report families have been rehoused from 118 houses which have been either demolished or closed. Although this figure is less than the number of houses abolished during the previous year it is still very gratifying to see the list of slum property diminishing to such a considerable extent.

The following summary shows that no fewer than 867 undesirable houses, including 205 converted army huts, have been disposed of since the war. This means that nearly half of a very comprehensive list of slum property within the district has already been dealt with, an achievement which reflects great credit upon the Council.

It is also very pleasing to note that the greater part of the converted army huts at Hartford have now been vacated or demolished. Had the Council not taken timely action this might well have been a serious problem.

**Families rehoused post-war from Sub-standard Property which has
subsequently been demolished or closed (up to 30.6.55)**

Bedlington

Fountain Inn, Glebe Row	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Glebe Road	...	...	...	...	...	...	64
Catholic Row	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Dowson's Buildings	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Sun Inn Yard	...	...	...	...	...	...	2 6
Old Colliery Row	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Bell's Place	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Hollymount Hall	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Hollymount Cottages	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Vulcan Place	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Vicarage Terrace	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Old Hall	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Chapel Row, East End	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Bank Cottages	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Murray's Yard	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Baptist Yard	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Rosella Place	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Front Street East	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Grand View	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

179

Bedlington Station

Ravensworth Terrace	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
North Row	...	...	...	...	...	...	42
Wilkinson's Buildings	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Red Row	...	...	...	...	...	...	36
Bridge House	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Bridge End	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Moorland Cottages	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Liddle's Yard	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Dene View	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Puddlers Row	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Craggs Buildings	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Staithes Quay	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Chapel Row, Barrington	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Stone Row, Barrington	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
School House, Barrington	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Ivy Cottage	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

180

Netherton

Yard Row	...	...	...	...	...	...	90
Howard Row	...	...	...	...	...	...	60
Village	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Nedderton Hall	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Farm Cottages	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

160

Cambois

Railway Bungalows	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	
New Row	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	
Link End	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	
									<hr/> 8

Choppington

Blackburn's Buildings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	
Strong's Buildings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22	
First Row	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	
Peter Gills Cottages	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	
Front Street, Scotland Gate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	
Colliery Square	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	
Chapel Row	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	
School Row	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	
School House	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	
Richardson's Buildings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	
Heslop's Buildings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Rutter's Buildings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Whinney Hill Cottage	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
									<hr/> 83

Guide Post

Front Street	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	
Anvil Cottages	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Freehold Terrace	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	
High Street	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	
Ford Terrace	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Tulip's Buildings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
									<hr/> 17

Stakeford

Middle Row	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	
North View	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	
West View	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	
									<hr/> 24

West Sleekburn

South Row	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
									<hr/> 1
Total Number of Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	652	
Army Huts at Wansbeck Place	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	29	
Army Huts at Hartford Camp	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	186	
									<hr/>
							Total	...	<hr/> 867

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

1.—Inspection for purposes of provisions as to health

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority	15	17	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	88	137	2	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Total	103	154	2	—

2.—Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred		Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable tempera- ture	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences:					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or de- fective	1	1	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not includ- ing offences relating to Outwork)	1	1	—	—	—
Total	2	2	—	1	—

There are 27 Outworkers employed by the Rema Glove Factory working in their own homes.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply

There are now 35 registered milk retailers licensed to sell Tuberculin Tested, Accredited, Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk within the district. All these sell milk in bottles as it is received.

24 samples were taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, 18 for bacteriological examination and 6 for biological examination. The latter were taken from the farms at West Sleekburn and were all found to be negative and free from Tuberculosis.

		No. of Samples	Satisfactory	Not Satisfactory
Ungraded Milk	...	2	1	1
Pasteurised Milk	...	13	13	Nil
Sterilised Milk	...	3	3	Nil

Ice Cream

There are still the same 3 ice-cream manufacturers in the district, 2 of them making ice-cream by means of the heat treatment method as laid down in the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947, and the other by the Cold Mix Process. These premises are inspected regularly and a high standard of cleanliness is always maintained.

40 samples of ice-cream were taken during the year, 33 were Grade 1, 2 were Grade 2, 4 were Grade 3 and 1 was Grade 4.

10 samples of iced-lollipops were submitted for bacteriological examination and in only one case was the result unsatisfactory.

Meat Inspection

By the end of the year 8 slaughterhouses were licensed in the district, 5 in Bedlington, 2 in Guide Post and 1 in Bedlington Station. Although this is far removed from the centralised slaughtering of the earlier part of the year, and more travelling is entailed, the using of these premises has relieved the congestion which was the first result of de-control and the system can now be said to be running smoothly.

This initial congestion was aggravated by the setting up of a wholesale pig slaughtering business by Messrs. Hay and Hindmarsh which meant that meat inspection had to be carried out on seven days of the week, an impossible situation for the meat inspector as a good part of the district slaughtering was already being done after normal working hours. In September, therefore, the Council decided that Meat Inspection would no longer be available on Sundays and the outcome has been that Messrs. Hay and Hindmarsh have continued to use this private slaughterhouse, relinquished by the Ministry of Food, and employed the services of a Veterinary Surgeon for Sunday inspection. The following figures do not therefore include 1,691 pigs, 7 sows and 4 boars examined in this way.

The situation may be more fully appreciated when it is realised as shown in the following table, that 100% inspection was carried out on 12,516 carcasses and organs, an increase of 50% on the previous year by only one meat inspector.

EXAMINATION OF CARCASSES

				No. Inspected	No Affected with Tuberculosis	% of Carcases Affected with Tuberculosis
Steers	...	...	...	561	28	4.99%
Heifers	...	...	...	823	54	6.56%
Cows	...	...	...	148	26	17.56%
Bulls	...	...	...	6	2	33%
Calves	...	...	...	20	2	10%
Sheep	...	...	...	4,836	—	—
Pigs (not sows)	..	...	...	5,903	238	4.03%
Sows	...	...	...	192	18	9.37%
Boars	...	...	...	27	—	—
				12,516		

WHOLE CARCASSES CONDEMNED DURING 1954

1 steer (casualty)	...	...	...	465 lbs.	Generalised Tuberculosis
1 steer	...	...	...	755 lbs.	Do.
1 heifer	...	...	...	602 lbs.	Do.
1 cow	...	...	...	574 lbs.	Do.
1 cow	...	...	...	690 lbs.	Do.
1 cow	...	...	...	400 lbs.	Do.
1 cow	...	...	...	656 lbs.	Do.
1 cow	...	...	...	650 lbs.	Do.
1 calf	...	...	...	300 lbs.	Do.
1 pig	...	...	...	96 lbs.	Do.
1 pig	...	...	...	115 lbs.	Do.
1 sow	...	...	...	290 lbs.	Do.
7 calves	...	...	...	296 lbs.	Immaturity
2 sheep	...	...	...	62 lbs.	Emaciation
1 sheep	...	...	...	54 lbs.	Pleurisy and Emaciation
3 cows	...	...	...	1,058 lbs.	Oedema & Emaciation
1 cow	...	...	...	392 lbs.	Hepatitis & Emaciation
1 sheep (casualty)	...	...	...	62 lbs.	Ill bled & Odorous
1 sheep (casualty)	...	...	...	53 lbs.	Oedema
1 sheep	...	...	...	66 lbs.	Moribund & ill-bled
1 sheep	...	...	...	57 lbs.	Peritonitis & Oedema
1 sheep	...	...	...	65 lbs.	Traumatic Congestion
2 sheep	...	...	...	95 lbs.	Septicaemia
1 pig	...	...	...	88 lbs.	Moribund & ill-bled
1 pig	...	...	...	50 lbs.	Emaciation
1 pig	...	...	...	132 lbs.	Pleurisy & Peritonitis & Oedema
1 pig	...	...	...	100 lbs.	Abscesses

OTHER MEAT, ORGANS, ETC., CONDEMNED AS UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

Bovine Animals

Beef	...	...	...	Tuberculosis, 1,638 lbs.; Pleurisy, 250 lbs.
Head and Tongues	...	...	...	Tuberculosis, 54; Actinobacillosis, 5; Abscesses, 1.
Lungs	...	...	...	Tuberculosis, 79; Stomach Contents, 124; Flukes, 89; Pleurisy, 12; Abscesses, 2; Pneumonia, 1.
Livers	...	...	...	Cirrhosis, 256 whole livers and 98 part livers; Abscesses, 56 whole livers and 5 part livers; Tuberculosis, 24; Hepatitis, 4; Angioma, 2; Fatty Infiltration, 1.
Hearts	...	...	...	Tuberculosis, 5; Pericarditis, 3; Abscesses, 1.
Spleens	...	...	...	Tuberculosis, 3; Inflammation, 2; Abscesses, 1.
Udders	...	...	...	Induration, 7; Mastitis, 3.
Skirts	...	...	...	Tuberculosis, 6; Inflammation, 2; Abscesses, 2.
Stomachs	...	...	...	Tuberculosis, 2; Inflammation, 1.
Intestines	...	...	...	Inflammation, 1; Tuberculosis, 2.

Sheep

Mutton	...	...	...	Abscesses and Pleurisy, 82 lbs.; Traumatic Congestion, 16 lbs.
Plucks	...	...	...	Flukes, 103; Pleurisy and Abscesses, 32; Cysts, 2.
Heads	...	...	...	Abscesses, 1; Parasites, 1.
Hearts and Lungs	...	...	...	Pleurisy, 7.

Pigs

Pork	...	...	...	Tuberculosis, 54 lbs.; Rheumatoid Arthritis 19 lbs., Inflammation 41 lbs.; Traumatic Congestion, 331 lbs.
Heads	...	...	...	Tuberculosis, 256; Decomposition, 3.
Plucks	...	...	...	Inflammation, 151; Cirrhosis, 31; Tuberculosis, 27; Decomposition, 8; Milk Spots, 2; Cysts, 2.
Hearts and Lungs	...	...	...	Pneumonia and Pleurisy, 515.
Livers	...	...	...	Inflammation, 1; Decomposition, 1.

OTHER FOODS EXAMINED AND FOUND TO BE UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

Fruit	...	...	...	95 tins	Sausage	...	...	29 lbs.
Fish	...	...	...	4 tins	Luncheon Tongue	...	...	1 tin
Milk	...	...	...	16 tins	Bacon	...	...	2 lbs.
Cream	...	...	...	1 tin	Peas and Beans	...	...	21 tins
Veal	...	...	...	4 tins	Chocolate Cakes	...	...	150
Ham	...	...	...	12 tins	Scotch Broth	...	...	3 tins
Beef	14 tins	Cut Peel	7 ctns.
Cooked Steak	27 lbs.	Beetroot	1 tin
Sausage	4 tins				

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